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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re patent application of

Makoto YOSHIDA, et al.

Serial No.: 10/593,268

Group Art Unit: 1791

Filed: October 6, 2006

Examiner: HOFFMANN, JOHN M

For: SINTERING METHOD AND SINTERING APPARATUS OF POROUS  
GLASS BASE MATERIAL

Honorable Commissioner of Patents  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**RESPONSE TO FIRST OFFICE ACTION AND  
RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated July 30, 2009, please consider the  
following:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

**Remarks begin on page 2 of this paper.**